

BLADES OF THE NINJA 1

GAGA

Yoto Den
1"YOTODEN" (Swords of Legend),

Episode: Escape from Doom

Characters:

- Ayanosuke (Ayame): Only surviving member of the Kasumi Ninja Clan. She sets out to avenge the deaths of her clan by killing Nobunaga with the Sword of Legend. (Note: "Ayame" is a female name; "Ayanosuke" is the male form of the same name.)
- Sakon: Only surviving member of the Hyuga Ninja Clan. He also has a Sword of Legend. He is a cool-headed and masterful ninja.
- Ryoma: Heir of Hagakure Ninja Clan. He is the son of Genyusai, the leader. In this episode, he suffers the loss of his clan to Nobunaga's nefarious attack. He also has a Sword of Legend (a spear) and joins forces with Sakon and Ayanosuke against Nobunaga.
- Kikyo: Ryoma's sister. Not realizing that Ayame is a woman in man's guise, she falls in love with "Ayanosuke." In this episode's final battle, she dies protecting "Ayanosuke."
- Ryoan: Mysterious Buddhist priest who knows the secret which releases the power of the swords of legend. He mysteriously appears at the sites of battle. Nobody knows who he is or where

The Story of the Swords of Legend

Over a millennium ago in the Heian Period of Japan, the swordsmith Yorimasa who lived in Hida no Kuni discovered a meteorite in the Kohjin mountain. From this meteor, he made one sword. It had an unsurpassed edge capable of cutting through the hardest substances. It was such a wonderful sword that Yorimasa presented it to the Emperor Sujaku. However, a seer said that in this sword lay hidden a strange power which was fated to save Japan from evil at some time in the future. The Emperor directed Yorimasa to cut this sword into 3 parts. Yorimasa gave one part to each of his children who each disappeared into a different part of Japan: Shinano, Kaga, and Minoh districts. The holder of a Sword of Legend was able to draw on the forces of the universe, thereby obtaining super strength and power. The children became the founders of secret ninja clans: Kasumi, Hagakure and Hyuga Ninja Clans. Very little was known about these clans and for this reason they were called the Shadow Ninja. Most people in Japan only knew about the Iga, Koga and Fuma ninja clans and thought these clans to be the most powerful ninja in Japan. In reality, only the Kasumi, Hagakure and Hyuga clans knew the true power of ninja.

Oda Nobunaga and the 7 Evil Oboroshu

Even as a child, Oda Nobunaga was considered very different. Often he went out dressed strangely, and behind his back, the people of the city thought him a complete fool. One day in January 1553, when he went out on his horse for a ride in the countryside, a large earthquake struck. Nobunaga was thrown into a wide crack which opened in the earth. When he came to, he found himself facing a strange mummy, the remains of Yoma Taitei, an evil Emperor and leader of the 7 Evil Oboroshu. Suddenly, the mummy spoke. "You will be the conqueror of Japan. Come closer to me." When Nobunaga approached the mummy, the mummy sent forth its spirit and possessed Nobunaga. This was the beginning of the Nobunaga's conquest of Japan. Armed with the strange and evil powers of Yoma, he conquered castle after castle until most of Japan lay under his control. Finally he defeated the Muromachi Shogunate, and became the new shogun of Japan. Alexander's Comet, the source of the evil power, was just approaching Earth when this episode begins. As the comet comes closer, his power grows. The only question remaining is whether the evil Nobunaga will triumph or the three remaining Shadow Ninja will vanquish the evil force of Yoma.

Synopsis

The story begins in the Kasumi area of Japan. Ayame, the most talented member of the Kasumi Ninja Clan, is about to marry her childhood sweetheart. As our story opens, a three-headed monster (Saigusa Jinnai) has appeared out of nowhere and laid waste to the clan. Her family is completely wiped out in the attack, and her older brother dies in an attempt to kill the monster while Ayame escapes with the heirloom of the Kasumi Clan, a Sword of Legend. Ayame is the only surviving member of the clan. She puts on the guise of a man, adopts a man's name "Ayanosuke", and begins her journey of vengeance. With her, she carries the Sword of Legend. This was the Age of War in Japan. Warlords fought for power in the hope of becoming the supreme shogun of Japan. One of them was Nobunaga.

Our story moves to Nobunaga's castle where he is rejoicing at the news of the burning of Ishiyama Hongan temple. The possessed Nobunaga's only weakpoint is the power of the Buddhist dharma. For this reason, Nobunaga's campaign has focussed on the destruction of religious groups.

Our scene shifts to "Ayanosuke" being attacked by mountain bandits. While she is fighting the leader, Sakon, she realizes that he is carrying the same sword of legend. Suddenly, the monsters of Nobunaga appear and attack them all. Out of nowhere, the mysterious priest Ryoan begins a Buddhist chant which dispels the monsters and rescues the group. He tells Ayanosuke and Sakon to go to the Hagakure clan if they want to learn the secret of "Yoma" Nobunaga, and then he disappears. Sakon reveals to Ayanosuke that he too is a Shadow ninja and that his clan was also decimated by the monster, leaving only himself. On the way to the village, they meet Ryoma, the son of the leader of the Hagakure clan, who leads them to the village. In the village, they are told by Genyu-sai that

the "Yoma" monsters are, in actuality, the secret force of Nobunaga. For a short time, Ayanosuke and Sakon rest from their travels. There is only one problem. Kikyo believes "Ayanosuke" to be a man, and becomes infatuated with "him". But this peaceful interlude was soon to end. On the day of the village festival, the forces of Yoma led by the three-headed monster assault the village. Ayanosuke becomes mad with vengeance as she witnesses the destruction of the village. Suddenly her sword appears to be drawing on some strange power and becomes blindingly bright. Using this power, she cuts the monster, but in the process, Kikyo dies protecting Ayanosuke from the dying attack of the monster. However, the village is completely destroyed. Ryoma swears revenge and joins Ayanosuke and Sakon on their mission of vengeance against Nobunaga.

SCENE 1 : KASUMI VILLAGE UNDER ATTACK

(9) Shin: You understand Ayame? Protect the Sword with your life.

(10) Aya: Shinosuke, let me fight to the end with you.

(11) Shin: No, our father died to make sure you received the Sword.

Aya: Father!! (in grief)

(12) Shin: Take this sword and go to the clans of Hyuga and Hagakure. I'll attack the monster and give you a chance to escape.

(13) Shin: Unless we gather the power of the 3 Shadow Clans, we will be unable to stop this monster.

(14) Shin: Do you understand, Ayame? Our hope lies with you.

(15) Aya: Yes.

(18) Shin: Die monster!!

(19) Aya: Shinosuke!! Shinosuke!!

[TITLES]

SCENE 2: NOBUNAGA'S CASTLE

(22) Advisor A: That comet brings a feeling of the weird to the skies.

(23) Advisor B: Did you hear the reports? Three months ago, deep in the mountains of Shinano, a creature from hell appeared and devoured all the villagers.

(25) Advisor C: Yes, I too heard that story. And in April in Kaga, the same thing happened.

(26) Advisor A: The appearance of these monsters must be connected with that comet.

(28) Advisor D: Lord, a messenger from Baron Akechi in Setsu Region brings news about Ishiyama Hongan Temple. It has...

Nobunaga: ...burned to the ground.

(30) Narration: *On August 2 in the year 1580, the head temple of the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist sect burned to the ground. Nobunaga laid siege to this temple for 5 years. In despair the head priest entered negotiations for a treaty with Nobunaga. During the negotiations, the temple was burned to the ground. To this day, it is not known whether the fire was an accident or whether those monks against any treaty with Nobunaga set the fire themselves.*

(33) Advisor D: You already knew my lord?

(34) Nobunaga: My chief rivals Lords Uesugi Kenshin and Takeda

Shingen lie dead, the head temple of Buddhism is in ashes. My total conquest of Japan is nearly complete.

(35) All advisors: Lord!! (bowing)

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SCENE 3: MOUNTAIN BANDITS

- (40) Narration: *This year was marked by the appearance of a huge comet which split the heavens with a bright light.*
- (52) Aya: How long are you going to hide there? Come out and show yourselves.
- (58) Bandit A: Hee, hee, hee, hee. I missed.
- (61) Bandit B: It matters not. Mount Nagabuse is our preserve. To pass our land in safety, you must donate all your possessions.
- (63) Bandit A: Or maybe you'd prefer to be persuaded. (All laugh)
- (66) Bandit B: I speak only the truth. It would be best if you just turned over your belongings. Understand?
- (67) Aya: Remove that filthy hand from me.
- (68) Bandit B: What did you say?!
- (73) Aya: Kasumi Trident Counterattack
- (75) Bandit C: Sororoku is dead!
Bandit D: Saburo and Jiro too!
- (77) Bandit C: I'll get you for that.
Sakon: Hold!
Bandit C: Master
- (78) Sakon: He is beyond your skills to defeat.
- (79) Sakon: (spits out grass) I'll take care of this one.
- (80) Sakon: Now, let's see what you can do.
- (94) Aya: I assume you are not going to let things stand as they are.
- (97) Sakon: You assume correctly.
- (98) Aya: Then you leave me no choice.
- (99) Sakon: Wasted effort.
- (106) Sakon: {He stopped my sword. And that technique?}

- (107) Aya: {All my techniques fail. Who is he?}
- (119) Sakon: Let us leave this fight for another time.
Aya: I agree.
- (120) Bandit D: Master!!
- (124) Jinnai: Heh! Heh! Heh!
- (126) Jinnai: Sakon, the only survivor of the Hyuga clan...
Aya: {Hyuga Clan?}
- (127) Jinnai: And you...
(thru 130) Judging from your technique, I stand in the presence of one from the Kasumi Clan. I am surprised a Kasumi Clan member yet lives. We are oboroshu. Like you, we too exist in the secret world of shadows.
- (132) Jinnai: I am Saigusa Jinnai, one of the 7 Oboroshu. My lord orders your destruction.
- (152) Sakon: Take care. They're inhuman.
- (160) Ryoan: (Buddhist chanting)
- (168) Jinnai: I can't believe it. A man with such power to speak the words of Dharma still lives.
- (169) Sakon: My chance.
- (174) Sakon: He escaped.
- (178) Ryoan: Almost. But you two still have a long way to go.
- (180) Sakon: You're the priest who spoke the chants of Dharma.
- (181) Ryoan: No thanks are necessary. I just couldn't bear watching how poorly the fruit of the 3 Shadow Ninja Clans performed.
- (182) Sakon: How do you know about us?
- (183) Ryoan: Of course, I know. In Japan, there are 3 clans from which all ninja originate: Kasumi, Hyuga, and Hagakure. The 3 Shadow Ninja Clans. All ninja in Japan trace their roots to one of these three. It follows you must be Shadow ninja.

- (187) Ryoan: But, it seems there are ninja greater than you.
- (188) Aya: Do you know about them, priest?
- (189) Ryoan: Perhaps. Perhaps not. But for what you seek to know, you must journey to the village of Hagakure on Mount Ryoga in the land of Mino.
- (190) Sakon: Hagakure Village?
- (191) Ryoan: Ah!! The cicadas have begun to sing.
- (192) Sakon: Honored priest!
- (194) Ryoan: You must learn the essence of the Shadow Ninja and soon. A shadow does not appear. It is without substance or form. Invisible. Mere sword techniques are not enough to defeat Oboroshu.

SCENE 4: NOBUNAGA'S CASTLE

- (213) Nobunaga: Ready my steed, Ran Maru. Ran Maru, where are you?
Ran Maru: I'm here, my lord.
- (216) Nobunaga: Ran Maru, mount your horse and ride by my side.
Ran Maru: Yes, my lord.
- (217) Ran Maru: {My lord, there are shadow ninja in the area.}
- (218) Nobunaga: {I desire to see their faces.}

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SCENE 5: ON THE ROAD

- (223) Aya: The work of vandals, perhaps.
Sakon: No, the work of Nobunaga. He holds no love for Buddhism. It is rumoured that he has ordered the burning of all temples throughout Japan.
- (235) Nobunaga: Ride on.
- (238) Aya: Who is he?
Sakon: Oda Nobunaga, the man who is a but a step away from mastery of Japan.

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SCENE 6: CAMPFIRE

(203) Aya: One month ago, when I went to Hyuga, I found the village in ruins. Sakon, how is it you survived?

(208) Sakon: How is it you survived, Ayanosuke?

(209) Aya: To defeat the monster which destroyed Kasumi, I had to escape and get aid from Hyuga and Hagakure.

Sakon: Ahh.. Revenge.

(210) Sakon: Tell me, what will you do once you arrive in Hagakure. Against a monster which destroyed each of our villages in a single night, do you think the power of Hagakure will suffice?

(211) Aya: Then why are you going, Sakon?

(212) Sakon: Why? I don't really know...

SCENE 7: FOREST NEAR HAGAKURE

- (271) Ryoma: These are our woods, I suggest you don't move.
- (272) Ryoma: Who are you? You are not of our village.
- (275) Sakon: Hagakure at last.. I am Sakon of the Hyuga Clan and this is..
- (276) Aya: Ayanosuke of the Kasumi Clan. We come to meet with the Hagakure Clan.
- (277) Ryoma: Hyuga? Kasumi? Ah, Shadow Ninja... Well, follow me. I'll lead you to the village.
- (278) Sakon: Wait, why do you give us your trust so quickly.
- (279) Ryoma: Lord Sakon, I see a face that can be trusted. But I forgot to introduce myself.
- (280) Ryoma: I am Kogure Ryoma, captain of the 1st Ninja regiment of Hagakure.
- (283) Aya: What is this?
- (284) Ryoma: Behold. The fortress of Hagakure.
- (285) Aya: Lord Ryoma, what is that?
- (286) Ryoma: That? That's a cannon. Our main weapon. Think of it as a giant musket.
- (287) Ryoma: If used, it has the power to change the face of mountains.
1st Regiment has returned. Lower the drawbridge.
- (288) Guard: Aye, my lord. Lower away.
- (296) Aya: Fantastic
- (299) Sakon: Truly stout fortifications.
- (301) Kikyo: Ryoma, welcome back.
- (302) Ryoma: Send word to our father that we have guests.
- (303) Kikyo: Yes.
- (305) Kikyo: Welcome.

(306) Aya: Your father?

(307) Ryoma: Yes, our leader, Kogure Genyusai is our father.

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SCENE 8: TEAROOM OF THE HOUSE OF KOGURE

- (309) Aya: I thought I would surely die.
Ryoma: My deepest apologies.
Aya: But I must say your fort is well-equipped.
- (310) Genyusai: Ha! Ha! Ha! Only the Hyuga and Kasumi could have come through that forest alive.
- (311) Sakon: If Ryoma hadn't appeared, we would have surely died.
- (312) Genyusai: Come, come now. Don't be so modest. Now what is your business with me?
- (317) Aya: This is a Sword of Legend, passed down from generation to generation by the Kasumi Clan. This short sword can only be drawn against evil and to preserve the peace. Yet its power was not enough to defeat the monster which destroyed Kasumi.
- (318) Aya: Lord Genyusai, I seek your aid.
- (319) Aya: I want to avenge their deaths. I beg of you.
- (320) Genyusai: Word of the destruction of Kasumi and Hyuga has come to me. You said your short sword is used to strike against evil and uphold the peace. We too have a blade of power. The Spear of Ryoma.
- (322) Sakon: Lord, my long sword too shares this tale.
- (323) Genyusai: Sometime in our clouded past, legend says our three clans were one. A tradition was made to keep our clans apart and our common heritage hidden. These three blades seem to be proof of our common roots. But who know?
Aya: Then you'll aid me.
- (324) Genyusai: Yes, but first we must better understand these monsters. And what of the Oboroshu which attacked you?
- (326) Ryoma: Father, if there is a connection between these Oboroshu and monsters, then Nobunaga is behind these attacks.
- (327) Aya: Nobunaga?

- (328) Ryoma: Yes, Oboroshu are the secret army of Nobunaga. Though he is just the warlord of a small province, he has won a surprising number of battles. The reason is the Oboroshu. The sudden death of Takeda Shingen. The razing of Enryaku Temple on Mount Hiei and last month's burning of Ishiyama Hongan Temple. All these tragedies, I believe are the work of the Oboroshu. And yes, I think Nobunaga played a part in the destruction of Kasumi and Hyuga too.
- (335) Aya: But the 3-headed monster which destroyed Kasumi, not even Nobunaga could control such a monster!?
- (336) Genyusai: Do you know what his men call him behind his back? The Demon Lord. Not just because of his cruelty... Oh, no. It's because of some dark, mysterious side of Nobunaga.
- Aya: Nobunaga, the Demon Lord...
- (338) Ryoma: If he is really trying to destroy the 3 clans, then the next target of the monsters and Oboroshu is...
- Genyusai: Yes, Hagakure.

SCENE 9: FORT SCENE

(342) Guard: Relieve me. I am taking a break.

SCENE 10: SCENE BY THE MOUNTAIN POND

(349) Aya: Kikyo-san, this is a nice village. It reminds me of Kasumi. My home was also a mountain village. On summer nights, the flicker of fireflies over the water was so beautiful.

(352) Aya: When I was little, I thought the light of fireflies was a wonderful mystery. Just like this, I would sit for hours and watch them. Then my big brother would come to take me home. "I want to watch longer," I would cry. But he would carry me home piggyback. I was always such a crybaby. But my brother would always be there. I was never good at anything. He was the best at everything. Why was I the one who survived.

SCENE 11: AT THE WALLS OF THE FORT

(361) Guard B: Tachi-san has been gone a long time.
Guard C: I wonder what happened.

(362) Guard D: Seiroku-san, where are you?

SCENE 12: AT THE RYOMA ESTATE

(372) Ryoma: It will be difficult for even the Oboroshu to enter this fortress. Ha, ha, ha, ha..

(375) Ryoma: What's the matter, Sakon?
Sakon: The smell of blood.
Ryoma: What's that?

(381) Sakon: Ryoma, they're here.

(382) Ryoma: What!?

(383) Sakon: I'll take care of this one. You warn the others.

(384) Ryoma: I'm on my way. Good luck, Sakon.

(392) Sakon: {Will my long sword be enough to stop it?}

(400) Sakon: Hyuga Stroke of Dreams

(402) Ryoma: Awake! The enemy's here. Awake!

(406) Ryoma: Everyone get out.

(407) Woman (B): What happened, Lord Ryoma?

(408) Ryoma: The enemy has somehow pierced our defense. Lead the villagers out and escape.
Woman (B): Yes, my lord.

(409) Ryoma: Father!

(413) Ryoma: Father!
Genyusai: Don't approach.

(414) Genyusai: Leave this one to me. Ryoma, you must save the others.

(416) Ryoma: Yes, my father.

SCENE 13: BATTLE SCENE

- (417) Sakon: Where are Ryoma and Lord Genyusai?
Woman C: I don't know. Ah! There he is.
Ryoma: Praise the gods. Did everyone get out?
Sakon: Four or five were killed. But what happened to Lord Genyusai.
Ryoma: He is.....
- (422) Kikyo: The estate!
- (423) Woman C: Our Lord Genyusai!
- (424) Ryoma: Sampei-san, assemble the 1st and 2nd regiments in the square and begin the counterattack.
- (425) Ryoma: The 3rd and 4th regiments protect the women and children.
Sampei: Yes, my lord.
- (427) Sakon: Lord Ryoma, LORD RYOMA!
Ryoma: This will not be.
- (440) Ryoma: I have no mercy for you.
- (452) Sakon: It doesn't matter how many times I cut them, they just don't die.
- (453) Sakon: Where is Jinnai?
- (455) Jinnai: Tonight will see the end of the 3 clans. The total destruction of the Shadow Ninja.
- (458) Sakon: Ayanosuke
- (464) Aya: Saigusa Jinnai,
- (465) Aya: Why do you attack us? What is Nobunaga trying to do?
- (466) Jinnai: Ah, the foolish ninja in the mountains. I have no words for those who will soon be dead.
- (467) Aya: Die Jinnai!
- (473) Jinnai: You think you can defeat me. Prepare for your death, ninja.

- (477) Jinnai: Fool!
- (479) Kikyo: Lord Ayanosuke
- (483) Jinnai: Die!
- (498) Kikyo: Lord Ayanosuke, Lord Ayanosuke.
- (499) Aya: Oh!
- (500) Kikyo: I thought you were dead.
Aya: So did I...
- (501) Kikyo: I was so worried.
- (502) Kikyo: I am so glad. Ayanosuke, I, I,... Ah!
- (506) Aya: Kikyo-san!
- (508) Aya: Kikyo-san!
- (509) Kikyo: Don't worry about me. Are you all right, Lord Ayanosuke.
- (510) Aya: Don't speak.
- (514) Ryoma: Kikyo!
- (515) Aya: She's lost a lot of blood. We must stop the bleeding quickly.
Ryoma: Don't give up, Kikyo!
- (525) Ryoma: What is that?
- (526) Aya: It's the monster.
- (527) Sakon: The monster.
- (530) Ryoma: Ayanosuke, I'll take care of the monster. You look after Kikyo.
Sakon: I'm going with you.
- (531) Kikyo: Please put me down.
- (532) Kikyo: I'm all right. Go with them and fight the monster. I'll wait for you here.

- (533) Aya: What are you saying? You know I can't leave you.
- (536) Kikyo: I don't want to hold you back from what you have to do.
- (537) Aya: Don't be silly. You saved my life.
- (539) Kikyo: Ayanosuke, I, I,....
- (541) Aya: Kikyo-san, you can't die. There's still something I have to tell you. Kikyo-san! Kikyo-san.
- (547) Sakon: Ayanosuke. What are you doing?
- (550) Sakon: Ayanosuke! Get back. You can't beat it by yourself.
- (551) Aya: Though it maybe impossible. I will defeat the monster, even if I die in the attempt.
- (571) Ryoan: At last, the three swords have joined forces.

SCENE 14: NOBUNAGA'S CASTLE

(572) Nobunaga: Aboroshu, you all share the responsibility of Jinnai's failure. You understand. Another failure is inexcusable.

Oboroshu: Yes, we fight to the death.

Nobunaga: Go!

(573) Nobunaga: The puny efforts of these ninja matter not, I will crush them.

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SCENE 15: HAGAKURE

(577) Ryoma: Goodbye, Kikyo.

(579) Aya: I promise when this is all over, I will come back and see you again. Till then...

Sakon: It's time...

Ryoma: Yes... Lord Ayanosuke.

Aya: {Nobunaga, when we meet, you'll pay for this.}

(580) Narration: *The summer of 1580 is almost over...*

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